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# The Record.

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## ROAD BUILDING

### OIL APPLIED TO DIRT ROADS

Much Used in Illinois as Preventive of Mud as Well as Dust—Several Good Methods.

By T. M. CRAVEN

Many roads in the oil fields of Illinois have been treated with oil which is a preventive of mud as well as dust. Roads that were put in shape and well sprinkled with oil last stood the winter travel which is always heavy in the oil fields, and came out in the spring with very little needed repair.

In applying oil to our common dirt roads several methods are employed. Sometimes where the road is in good shape the oil is sprinkled on without any further preparations. This is sufficient for summer roads and for holding down the dust, but a better method should be employed where good winter roads are expected.

First the road should be well worked with the road machine, then apply the oil with sprayer, putting on enough to well dampen the fresh worked dirt, then a disk or harrow should be used to mix the oil well with the clay; after sprinkling again, the roller is used to smooth down and pack the roads.

After this the road should be sprinkled once a month in winter to keep it from taking water.

All roads must be filled with dirt as soon as they commence to form. Well wet down this filling with oil.

After two years of this treatment roads become solid and show but little waste from travel and rain. Well oiled roads are durable.

Road roads are treated the same way but require more oil to put them in shape. A common water tank with street sprinkling attachment is all that is required for applying oil to the roads.

### PREPVENT STEEP ROAD CUTS

Difficulty Usually Experienced in Mountains or hilly Country is in Repairing Washouts.

In a mountainous or hilly country where the roads must be built with considerable grade, one difficulty which is usually experienced in their maintenance is in repairing washouts.

When a heavy shower falls upon the road and adjoining country, water will find its way to the depressions worn by the wheels. It flows down these depressions, gaining volume and velocity as it goes until the road surface is eroded and deep ruts often formed. The road which was good in the beginning is now rough and rutty and unpleasant and even dangerous to travel over.

One of the very best methods for preventing this cutting writes E. B. House of the Colorado Agricultural College is to build across the road at intervals of two or three hundred feet ditches running entirely across the road. These ditches should be about one foot deep and perhaps three feet wide. They should be so located that they will discharge their water at some distance from the road and in such places that the water will continue on down the hill from the road.

In order that the road may be smooth, plank bridges are placed across these ditches. These are very simple affairs, but answering the purpose for the engineers and costs of twice doing very well for the flooring. These planks should be placed so that cracks one and one-half to two inches wide are left between each plank. These cracks then running across the road allow the water coming down the road to go through them, into the ditch and pass away. In this way the volume of water flowing over the road surface is kept down and cutting prevented.

### MAINTENANCE IS ESSENTIAL

Road Repairing as Important as Building. According to Official of Agricultural Department.

Logan W. Fogg, chief of the office of public roads, of the department of agriculture, is sending every energy to impress upon the people of the country that maintenance and effective repair are of equal importance with the actual improvement of bad roads.

Investment in new roads does not become real economy until provision is made for keeping those new roads in condition after they are built. If a new road was built and then allowed to fall into disrepair, much of the original investment is simply wasted.

Quite frequently the office of public roads, when called upon for assistance by the various states, points out that road building is an art based on a science, and that trained men and experienced men are necessary to secure the best results from the expenditure of road funds.

Statisticians have figured out that although the average expenditure on the improvement of roads exceeds \$1,000,000 a day, a large portion of it is wasted because of the failure to build the right type of road to meet local requirements or the failure to provide for the continued maintenance of the improvement.

**Good Storage Conditions.**  
Good roads not only bring the market nearer to you but they improve the social condition of your community because they bind neighbors and friends more closely.

### RAISING BEEF CATTLE

Decrease of Supply East of Missouri Is Vital Problem.

Farmers of Corn Belt Have Been Prone to Look to West and Southwest for Feeders—Situation Is Growing More Acute.

By R. G. WEATHERSTONER

We quite agree with the statement by a Chicago man who has kept in close touch with the cattle owners of the country for the past 20 years that decreasing beef cattle supplies on the farms east of the Missouri river is the most vital problem facing the live stock industry today, and one which must be remedied by greater effort toward replenishment if the prosperity of the land owners is to be

continued.

Make a feeding alley in front of the mangers where the feeding can be done with the least work and time. Take the work convenient. Take a day off, or a week if necessary, and visit places that have modern barns constructed in a barn is the cheapest part of the building and the most important. Ideas don't cost anything if you look for them. To put them into effect may take years, but it lightens the work to know they are to be used. Until you can afford a new barn before making any improvements is folly. Fit up the old barns well so the work can be done harder and with less hardship this coming winter.

Excellent Beef Type.

continued and, too, if the beef-eating public is to secure its regular quota prices below prohibitory levels.

The nation has in recent years drawn too heavily upon the sources of fat beef output, without due regard to the future of the supply. Farmers of the corn belt have been prone to look to the west and southwest for their supplies of feeding cattle, not realizing that the increasing population is constantly calling for greater home production of fat beefes.

Time has arrived when the west, a few years back the breeding ground for the corn belt feeders, is no longer able to supply feeding cattle to the farmers of Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio except at almost fat steer prices. The situation is growing more acute each year. Within the past two years the effect of home production of beef steers in the states of the middle west has been a relatively shorter supply of beef than consumptive capacity required, and the results have been higher average prices for fat steers than realized in thirty years past. But instead of general prosperity it has been prosperity for the few, because cattle raising and feeding has declined.

### IMPORTANCE OF CLEAN SEED

Corn Crop of Country Has Been Increased Millions of Bushels by Good Seed Selection.

No farmer can get any one to take the same pains in grading his seed that he would himself. Some farmers claim that it does not pay to clean grain.

The corn crop of this country has been increased millions of bushels by intelligent seed selection. All other grain crops can be improved by grading the seed, so that only good, plump, healthy grains, free from all foreign seeds may be sown.

The fanning mill, judiciously used will do much to increase the yield of every small grain crop and assist in keeping our fields free from noxious weeds.

It will take cockles out of wheat, buckwheat, plantain out of clover, in fact, it can be adjusted so as to handle all kinds of grain and weed seeds.

If you decide that it pays to sow good seed and to keep your fields free from noxious weeds, then do not hesitate to invest a few dollars in a fanning mill.

### Preparation of Orchard.

As the orchard is to occupy the land for several years, the work of thoroughly preparing the soil before planting is important.

Whether the planting is to be done early or late in the season, there is no time during the whole year so opportune for effective work with the plow, subsoil plow and harrow as just after the first good fall rain. At this time the subsoil is moist, not wet, and lasting benefits result from stirring and pulverizing the subsoil to good depth when it is in just the right condition.

### Profitable Blackberry.

The Early Harvest Blackberry was very profitable this year in many localities. It always did well for us, but that does not prove that it ever will for you. Along this line a friend of ours who is a large grower of all the small fruit, particularly raspberries, says: "Cumberland is an absolute failure with me." He knows his business but lives in Marion county, located in the black stamp region of Ohio. Soil makes the difference.

### Good Storage Conditions.

Good roads not only bring the market nearer to you but they improve the social condition of your community because they bind neighbors and friends more closely.

## DAIRY

### REMODELING THE DAIRY BARN

Only Redempting Feature of Prosperous Looking Red Building Is Big Loft—Gutters Lacking.

There are many big red barns that look well from a distance and thus give the farm an appearance of prosperity, but a diagnosis to dairying they have but a few small windows, no gutters, no stables, no feeding alleys, no ventilation. Their big lofts are about the only redeeming feature that can be said of them.

Cement is not expensive and any man who is at all bold in building can put in decent gutters and walls with a little study on the subject. Any of the cement companies advertising in the agricultural papers will send a book or instructions upon request.

Make the gutter 4 feet 10 inches from the manger for medium-sized cows, 18 inches wide and 10 inches deep. It is not necessary to make the whole floor of cement. The forward half of the stall may be left without cement, although it is desirable to make the whole floor and manger of cement when it can be afforded.

Make a feeding alley in front of the mangers where the feeding can be done with the least work and time. Take the work convenient. Take a day off, or a week if necessary, and visit places that have modern barns constructed in a barn is the cheapest part of the building and the most important. Ideas don't cost anything if you look for them. To put them into effect may take years, but it lightens the work to know they are to be used. Until you can afford a new barn before making any improvements is folly. Fit up the old barns well so the work can be done harder and with less hardship this coming winter.

### MILK COOLER OF CONCRETE

One Shown in Illustration Is Easily Constructed and Will Pay for Itself in Very Short Time.

The illustration shows a milk cooler that is very easily constructed by anyone and will repay its cost many times over in a season's use, says the independent Farmer. A box form is constructed of the size you wish the outside of the cooler to be; the inside is made in the same manner, about eight inches smaller, so as to allow for a four-inch wall to the tank or cooler on all sides. The concrete is mixed, one part Portland cement to five parts of sand and gravel, and the bottom of cooler laid first; this may be three and one-half or four inches thick, as you desire; and the water form for the inside is then set upon

### HANDY BARN ON SMALL FARM

As Combination Structure for Cows and Horses Illustration Shows One Built Cheaply.

The barn shown in the illustration should be built for \$150, especially where a man is so situated he can do

### DR. J. W. BARLOW,

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prices.

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### Push Immature Animals.

All immature animals should be kept growing in weight through the winter. They may not carry their fat through; that is not always profitable; but they should carry their weight through, and more. What they lose in fat they should gain in growth, and make a profitable increase—with steers at least half a pound a day during the winter months. This does not necessarily apply to females, unless they are being grown for beef. If they are being grown for milk, it is not desirable to keep them in too high condition. Excessive fat and prolificacy or fruitfulness, are, to some extent, at least incompatible.

### Feed for Pigs.

Some pigs require more feed than others, and it is not easy to gauge the daily ration to each.

One-third pound of ground corn is a good proportion, and a little bran or middlings may be added with a little oilmeal or either hog. Feeding this carefully, the feed will soon see how much should be given at a time; no more than they will eat is a good rule. Bran and middlings are best for hogs to farrow, and a very little cornmeal, but ground oats may be added to the bran about one-third of the latter.

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